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STATE/LOCAL

A4

Smith wants less politics in BOE

By ED HOWELL
Daily Mountain Eagle

Democratic Walker County Board of Education chairman candidate Bill Smith defended the county school system as a good system and said he wants to work to reduce the level of politics it now sees.

Smith, who is running against Republican Brad Ingle, spoke at a Walker County Democratic Party rally Tuesday night in Jasper.

"I don't care what rumors are out there. We have one of the best school systems in the state. We get good grades every year," he said.

He said it is important is that the school system "takes our most prized possession every day and houses that child and puts knowledge in that child's head. That's the people who are going to be leading our country in a few more years."

Smith pointed out his past service as a member of the school board.

"I know the job. I know how to make it work," he said.

"We need to provide safe schools, and I think we're doing that. Every new school we're building has got the tornado safe halls and everything," he said. "Our schools have decent discipline. There is always room for improvement in discipline."

He said the system must be financially accountable to both taxpayers and the students, saying the students are what



Daily Mountain Eagle - Ed Howell

Walker County Board of Education chairman candidate Bill Smith speaks to the recent Walker County Democratic Party rally in Jasper. Looking on are Chris Pendley (left), chairman of the local party, and Walker County Circuit Clerk Susie Odom.

school is all about.

Smith wants to develop committees to look into working with business and to also work closely with the other board members.

He also talked about working with employees, saying that the system has 1,100 workers and is probably the largest employer in the county. He said there will always be disgruntled employees in any workplace with some issues.

"How well we handle those issues in the proper manner makes a whole lot of differ-

ence," Smith said. "I want to create a system that has less politics in our school system. For years and years, there has been a lot of politics, and I think we can handle that and reduce the level of politics in our school system through out policies and procedures."

He said he had seen a baby that day and realized the job performance he might do could affect that child years down the road.

"The kind of job I do, if I am elected, is going to be so important to that baby's future. It's not about me. It's about the children," Smith said.

"We're going to have to pull together," he said, getting emotional. "We're going to have to walk hand and hand through this world, relying on each other, because those babies deserve the right to live the American dream as we have," he said.

STATE IN BRIEF

Sand Mountain school has eight sets of twins

SAND MOUNTAIN — Students and teachers a double at the Big Spring Lake Kindergarten School

There are eight sets of twins in school this fall — boy-girl set, two sets of girls and five sets of boys.

Principal Tracy Penney said, "This is, by far most I have seen in the school at one time." No one been able to prove as true a report the school once dozen sets of twins.

Two years ago there were six sets of twins in the Most years, the school will have one or two sets of

The 2008-09 twins include Corey and Tony Han Fiorela and Betzaida Lopez, Jerome and Jrevone I Luz Maria and Luz Darlin Antonio-Diaz, Andrew and Hannah Rodgers, Karlos and Ruben Serna, Austin Nathan Stewart and George Floyd Dobbins IV and monly referred to as Joel and Evan.

The Associate

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